

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 2005

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 598**

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**Introduced by Senator Torlakson**  
*(Coauthor: Assembly Member Spitzer)*

February 18, 2005

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An act to amend Sections 20001 and 20002 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 598, as amended, Torlakson. Vehicles: leaving the scene of an accident.

(1) Existing law requires the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to any person, other than himself or herself, or in the death of any person, to immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident and provide certain information and render assistance, as necessary, to the driver and occupants of the other vehicle and provide the specified information to any traffic or police officer at the scene of the accident. A violation of this requirement is punishable as a misdemeanor or a felony. A person who flees the scene of the crime after committing a violation of certain provisions relating to vehicular manslaughter is required to be punished, in addition and consecutive to the base penalty, by an additional 5-year term of imprisonment in the state prison.

This bill would require that a person who violates the requirement in existing law described above within 10 years after having been convicted of violating certain provisions prohibiting driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, to be punished, in addition and consecutive to the base penalty, by an additional term of imprisonment in the state prison ~~that does not exceed~~ *of 2 years* if an

injury occurs and by an additional term ~~that is not less than 3 years nor more than of 3, 4, or 5 years~~, if death occurs. The bill thereby would establish a state-mandated local program by imposing additional duties on local law enforcement.

(2) Existing law requires the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting only in damage to any property, including vehicles, to immediately stop the vehicle at the nearest location that will not impede traffic or otherwise jeopardize the safety of other motorists and provide certain information to the owner or person in charge of the damaged vehicle or place that information in a conspicuous place on the damaged vehicle. A violation of this requirement is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 6 months or by a fine of \$1,000 or both the fine and imprisonment.

This bill would require that a person who violates the requirement in existing law described above within 10 years after having been convicted of violating certain provisions prohibiting driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, to be punished by a term of imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 1 year, or by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000, or by both the imprisonment and fine. The bill thereby would establish a state-mandated local program by imposing additional duties on local law enforcement.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 20001 of the Vehicle Code is amended  
2 to read:  
3 20001. (a) The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident  
4 resulting in injury to any person, other than himself or herself, or  
5 in the death of any person shall immediately stop the vehicle at

1 the scene of the accident and shall fulfill the requirements of  
2 Sections 20003 and 20004.

3 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person who  
4 violates subdivision (a) shall be punished by imprisonment in the  
5 state prison, or in a county jail for not more than one year, or by  
6 a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more  
7 than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by both that  
8 imprisonment and fine.

9 (2) If the accident described in subdivision (a) results in death  
10 or permanent, serious injury, any person who violates  
11 subdivision (a) shall be punished by imprisonment in the state  
12 prison for two, three, or four years, or in a county jail for not less  
13 than 90 days nor more than one year, or by a fine of not less than  
14 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than ten thousand dollars  
15 (\$10,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine. However, the  
16 court, in the interests of justice and for reasons stated in the  
17 record, may reduce or eliminate the minimum imprisonment  
18 required by this paragraph.

19 (3) In imposing the minimum fine required by this  
20 subdivision, the court shall take into consideration the  
21 defendant's ability to pay the fine and, in the interests of justice  
22 and for reasons stated in the record, may reduce the amount of  
23 that minimum fine to less than the amount otherwise required by  
24 this subdivision.

25 (c) A person who flees the scene of the crime after committing  
26 a violation of Section 191.5 of, paragraph (1) or (3) of  
27 subdivision (c) of Section 192 of, or subdivision (a) or (c) of  
28 Section 192.5 of, the Penal Code, upon conviction of any of  
29 those sections, in addition and consecutive to the punishment  
30 prescribed, shall be punished by an additional term of  
31 imprisonment of five years in the state prison. This additional  
32 term shall not be imposed unless the allegation is charged in the  
33 accusatory pleading and admitted by the defendant or found to be  
34 true by the trier of fact. The court shall not strike a finding that  
35 brings a person within the provisions of this subdivision or an  
36 allegation made pursuant to this subdivision.

37 (d) A person who violates subdivision (a) within 10 years after  
38 having been convicted of violating Section 23103, as specified in  
39 Section 23103.5, or Section 23140, 23152 or 23153, or Section  
40 191.5 of the Penal Code, or paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of

1 Section 192 of that code, in addition and consecutive to the  
2 punishment prescribed under subdivision (b), shall be punished  
3 by an additional term of imprisonment as follows:

4 (1) A term ~~that does not exceed~~ *of* two years if the accident  
5 described in subdivision (a) results in an injury.

6 (2) A term ~~that is not less than three years nor more than of~~  
7 *three, four, or* five years if the accident described in subdivision  
8 (a) results in death.

9 (e) As used in this section, “permanent, serious injury” means  
10 the loss or permanent impairment of function of any bodily  
11 member or organ.

12 SEC. 2. Section 20002 of the Vehicle Code is amended to  
13 read:

14 20002. (a) The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident  
15 resulting only in damage to any property, including vehicles,  
16 shall immediately stop the vehicle at the nearest location that will  
17 not impede traffic or otherwise jeopardize the safety of other  
18 motorists. Moving the vehicle in accordance with this  
19 subdivision does not affect the question of fault. The driver shall  
20 also immediately do either of the following:

21 (1) Locate and notify the owner or person in charge of that  
22 property of the name and address of the driver and owner of the  
23 vehicle involved and, upon locating the driver of any other  
24 vehicle involved or the owner or person in charge of any  
25 damaged property, upon being requested, present his or her  
26 driver’s license, and vehicle registration, to the other driver,  
27 property owner, or person in charge of that property. The  
28 information presented shall include the current residence address  
29 of the driver and of the registered owner. If the registered owner  
30 of an involved vehicle is present at the scene, he or she shall also,  
31 upon request, present his or her driver’s license information, if  
32 available, or other valid identification to the other involved  
33 parties.

34 (2) Leave in a conspicuous place on the vehicle or other  
35 property damaged a written notice giving the name and address  
36 of the driver and of the owner of the vehicle involved and a  
37 statement of the circumstances thereof and shall without  
38 unnecessary delay notify the police department of the city  
39 wherein the collision occurred or, if the collision occurred in

1 unincorporated territory, the local headquarters of the  
2 Department of the California Highway Patrol.

3 (b) Any person who parks a vehicle which, prior to the vehicle  
4 again being driven, becomes a runaway vehicle and is involved  
5 in an accident resulting in damage to any property, attended or  
6 unattended, shall comply with the requirements of this section  
7 relating to notification and reporting and shall, upon conviction  
8 thereof, be liable to the penalties prescribed under subdivision (c)  
9 for failure to comply with the requirements.

10 (c) Except as required under subdivision (d), a person failing  
11 to comply with all the requirements of this section is guilty of a  
12 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by  
13 imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or by  
14 a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both  
15 that imprisonment and fine.

16 (d) A person who violates subdivision (a) within 10 years after  
17 having been convicted of violating Section 23103, as specified in  
18 Section 23103.5, or Section 23140, 23152 or 23153, or Section  
19 191.5 of the Penal Code, or paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of  
20 Section 192 of that code shall be punished by imprisonment in  
21 the county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not less  
22 than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than ten thousand  
23 dollars (\$10,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

24 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
25 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
26 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
27 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
28 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the  
29 penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section  
30 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a  
31 crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the  
32 California Constitution.